

Summary of FERC permit withdrawals

Two companies proposing to generate energy harnessed from the tides in the Piscataqua River recently withdrew their permits from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). On March 30, 2009 the New Hampshire Tidal Energy Company (NHTEC) submitted a Notice of Surrender of its preliminary permit (P-12664-000) for a proposal to install 50 to 100 tidal in-stream conversion devices in the Piscataqua River. One day later, on March 31, 2009, Underwater Electric Kite Corporation (UEK) submitted a Notice of Surrender of its preliminary permit (P-12722-000) for a proposal to install up to 120 bi-directional hyrdo turbine assemblies in the river. Both companies were issued preliminary permits from FERC on April 16, 2007. The FERC permits authorized economic analyses, preparation of preliminary engineering plans, and environmental studies. Both NHTEC and UEK cited constraints placed on the proposals by existing navigational uses of the Piscataqua River as the primary reason for withdrawing their permits. NHTEC estimated that its project would have generated 8.76 gigawatt-hours of power per-unit per-year, while UEK estimated that its project would have generated approximately 222 gigawatt-hours of power per-year.